

Clermont County, Ohio

a short drive, a lasting impression



2005 Annual Citizens' Report

Board of Clermont County Commissioners
Robert L. Proud, Mary C. Walker, R. Scott Crosswell III

Dear Fellow Residents:

As you know, Clermont County is one of the fastest growing regions in Ohio; an increasing number of people are finding this area to be a perfect location to live, work, and raise a family. With easy access to major interstates, beautiful landscape, various types of housing, and world-class businesses, it's easy to understand why more people are finding Clermont County to be a short drive that makes a lasting impression!



The Board of Commissioners has initiated one of the region's most aggressive economic development programs, actively engaging in massive infrastructure improvements, shovel-ready site development, image enhancement, and improved communications with the business and development community.

In this report, you will learn of the many exciting programs and initiatives that are underway to strengthen the bonds between government and the community. Citizens are encouraged to become actively involved in this process by attending Board sessions on most Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. Please call ahead to verify dates and times. All regular meetings of the Board are held in the third floor session room of the Clermont County Administration Building, located at 101 East Main Street in Batavia. Sessions are also broadcast on area cable access television stations for your convenience. For additional information, please call 732-7300, or visit our Web site, www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov, for a meeting agenda.

The Board of Clermont County Commissioners has formed strong partnerships with citizens and business that will enable this area to remain a top notch location for families to call home, and a progressive destination for companies looking for the "right" location and a highly skilled workforce.

Bob Proud
President

Mary Walker
Vice President

Scott Crosswell
Commissioner

*Front page photo is beautiful Pattison Park, located off US 50, near Owensville

2005 in Review

Clermont County experienced significant increases in job creation and investment throughout 2005; new and expanded businesses created 482 jobs and invested \$71.7 million in the county. The newly established Office of Economic Development (OED) assisted the Clermont County Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and the Economic Development Corporation of Clermont County (ED3C) in completing a strategic plan and property analysis to identify the best areas for the county's future economic growth. The office also began visiting existing companies as part of a program aimed at business retention and strengthening communication with the business community. The OED initiated a new marketing effort to raise the county's profile, including launching the Web site www.ClermontCountyOhio.biz, which features a searchable database of available commercial property. *The Office of Economic Development can be reached at 732-7915.*



In December 2005, the One-Stop Service Agency opened its doors to provide vehicle registrations, driver's licenses, State of Ohio identification cards, title services, and Ohio State Patrol driver's license exams at one, convenient location. *The One-Stop Agency is located at 457 West Main Street in Batavia and can be contacted at 732-8050.*

The Prosecutor's and Treasurer's Offices worked cooperatively to collect over \$6.3 million in delinquent real estate, mobile home, and personal property taxes. For the fiscal year, running from September 1, 2004 through August 30, 2005, the Prosecutor's Office handled 1,009 felony cases through completion in Common Pleas Court; that compares to 842 cases in the preceding year. The Clermont Prosecutor is Donald W. White; *the Prosecutor's*

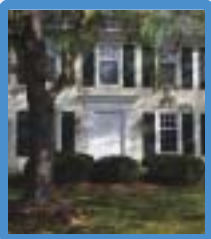
Office is available at 732-7313.

The General Division of the Common Pleas Court experienced another year of continued caseload growth in 2005. A total of 3,224 new cases were filed, comprised of 2,156 new civil case filings and 1,068 new felony criminal cases. Judge William Walker, Judge Robert Ringland, and Judge Jerry McBride each averaged 90 new cases each month. The total child support collections in 2005 through Common Pleas Court were in excess of \$1.1 million. *The Clermont County Common Pleas Court is located at 270 Main Street in Batavia.*

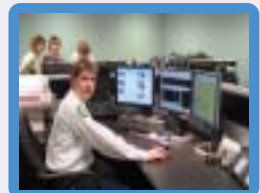
The Clermont County Engineer's Office completed \$4.5 million dollars in construction projects in 2005. Glen Este-Withamsville and Aicholtz Roads have been improved, Dry Run Road at SR 131 has a new traffic signal, 35 miles of road resurfacing was completed, several landslide repairs were made, and 12 bridge replacements were accomplished. These projects were funded, in large part, through various grants and private partnerships as well as utilizing local funds. Several large projects will soon be underway, including the Branch Hill Guinea Pike and Wards Corner Intersection, the Clough Pike and Shayler/McMann Intersection, and the Elick Lane improvements at SR 32. The Clermont County Engineer is Patrick J. Manger, P.E., P.S. *For more information, contact the Engineer's Office at 732-8857 or visit their Web site at www.ClermontEngineer.org.*



A state-mandated update of real estate values was completed in 2005 by the Clermont County Auditor's Office. This update was based on sales in 2002, 2003, and 2004. The taxable value of real estate increased 12.9 percent to \$3.77 billion; new construction accounted for 3 percent of this increase and 9.4 percent was due to the state-mandated adjustment. The Clermont Auditor is Linda L. Fraley. *The Auditor's real estate Web site is a comprehensive source of property data, taxes, and land information; this site can be viewed at www.ClermontAuditorRealEstate.org.*



The Clermont County Department of Public Safety Services completed the second of a three phase process that will enable Clermont, Northeast, and Union Township Communications Centers to be able to collectively answer 9-1-1 calls, and to dispatch responders on the same radio communications system. The Terrorism Advisory Team, appointed in 2003 by the Board of County Commissioners, was instrumental in using Department of Homeland Security Grant funding to offset the use of local tax dollars for this project.



The Clermont County Recorder's office processed 50,000 documents in 2005, collecting \$2,710,192, of which \$1,340,935 was collected for the Ohio Housing Trust Fund. The Recorder's website was visited 176,694 times throughout 2005. All new plats are available on the Web site. The Clermont Recorder is Carolyn Green. *Please visit the Clermont Recorder's Web site at www.LandAccess.com.*

The Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS) administers a diverse range of programs that benefit thousands of Clermont County's most vulnerable citizens in every age group from newborns to the elderly. During 2005, the department continued to be innovative and proactive in the administration of complex programs supported by federal, state, and local funds. *DJFS is located at 2400 Clermont Center Drive in Batavia and can be reached at 732-7111.*



The Children's Protective Services (CPS) division of DJFS continued to closely manage the process of placing abused and neglected children in appropriate home settings as the number of placements grew in 2005. A record number of adoptions were also achieved in 2005 and the number of licensed foster parents increased by 15 percent.

The Employment Services (ES) division of DJFS provided critically needed health and nutrition, financial, employment, and child care services to thousands of low income families trying to become self sufficient. With a 133 percent increase in the Medicaid caseload since 1997, ES has focused on case management and quality control while recovering a record \$317,105 in overissued benefits.

DJFS was very active in local workforce development during 2005 with the formation of a partnership with Butler and Warren Counties to form the fifth largest local workforce development region in Ohio. Dubbed Workforce One, the new partnership is comprised of leaders from business, education, labor and government with private sector business forming the majority of the Workforce One board. This provides training to unemployed and qualified workers to businesses who may be hiring.



Through an innovative program that is currently provided for by law, the Child Support Enforcement (CSE) division of DJFS filed 610 administrative liens on personal and real property against individuals who have failed in their obligation to pay child support for their children. This program, in cooperation with the Recorder's Office, represents \$7,848,197 in outstanding child support arrears. Total collections for the CSE division in 2005 amounted to \$36,304,266 in child support payments.

The Clermont County Coroner's Office, under the direction of Dr. Brian Treon, obtained a mass disaster unit in 2005; this 30 foot, air conditioned trailer was purchased and equipped through Homeland Security funds. Working with Goshen Township Officer James Taylor, a Personal Emergency Card has been developed to serve as a vital record noting personal identification information. *This free card is available at some police departments across the county and at the Clermont County Coroner's Office, located at 333 E. Main Street in Batavia.*

Clermont Transportation Connection (CTC) transported 36,969 passengers to jobs, medical appointments, and shopping throughout 2005. *CTC's operating hours are from 6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday. For CTC ride information, please call 732-7433.*

The Domestic Relations Court heard over 4,300 filings in 2005 and closed out over 3,400 of those filings. The court heard 820 civil protection petitions; eleven percent of those filed were dismissed. Twenty four families attended the KIDS (Kids in Divorce Situation) program and 105 families attended mediation; as a result, many lengthy and costly contested custody/parenting situations were avoided. *The Domestic Relations Court Judge is Michael J. Voris. The Domestic Relations Court Web site had over a million hits in 2005; it can be accessed at www.DomesticCourt.org.*



The Clermont County Park District opened the Chilo Lock #34 Park Visitor Center and Museum in 2005. The center is the former historic powerhouse for the old Chilo Lock and Dam. Renovations to the building and interactive exhibits highlighting Clermont County's Ohio River heritage opened to the public in August. The Park District also completed a pedestrian bridge at Sycamore Park to connect the park to the new 30 acre natural area. This project was funded through a grant from the Clean Ohio Fund. The Park District hosted over 400 events for over 40,000 people at Park District rental facilities and programs throughout the year. *For information on park programs, call 732-2977, or visit their Web site at www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov/parks. The Chilo Visitor Center and Museum can be contacted at 876-9013.*

The Clermont County General Health District saw a significant increase in reportable communicable diseases during 2005, primarily resulting from a late summer outbreak of cryptosporidiosis. A total of 205 cases were identified in Clermont residents. This regional outbreak was linked to swimming pools and water play parks in the area. Local health jurisdictions worked quickly and cooperatively to identify the suspect sources and to implement appropriate control measures. Marty Lambert replaced Dr. Janet Rickabaugh as health commissioner, following Dr. Rickabaugh's retirement. *For more information on Clermont Health District programs call 732-7499, or call the Nursing Division at 735-8989. Information about all of the Health District's programs can be accessed at www.ClermontHealthDistrict.org.*

The Clermont Soil and Water Conservation District continues to focus efforts on the East Fork watershed. A \$230,000 Ohio EPA grant was secured by the district to help mitigate failing septic systems in the Headwaters Region. The district also secured three additional state grants for purchasing canoes and trailers for stream cleanup and education events, and purchasing watershed signs for installation at stream crossings. The District received a perfect audit from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Audit Division for the second straight biennial period. *You can reach the Soil and Water Conservation District at 732-7075; their Web site is www.ClermontSWCD.org.*



Funding changes challenged the Clermont County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) in 2005; they resulted in a substantial loss of revenue and MRDD quickly made substantial efforts toward streamlining and restructuring the agency to make it more cost effective. Amidst this difficult time, Clermont County MRDD received a three-year accreditation from CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and was awarded an Exemplary Conformance Status for the MRDD volunteer program and disability awareness curriculum. *The MRDD Web site can be accessed at www.CCMRDD.org or call (513) 732-7000.*

In 2005, Clermont County Municipal Court was selected by the Ohio Department of Public Safety, in cooperation with the Ohio Supreme Court, to implement one of the first of two DUI Courts in the State of Ohio. The DUI Court is a three year pilot study to determine the effect DUI Courts have on managing repeat drunken drivers referred by Judge Victor M. Haddad, Judge Thomas R. Herman, and Judge James A. Shriver. The DUI Court models itself after the highly successful drug court concept that has shown considerable promise in rehabilitating offenders with alcohol and drug addictions and reducing recidivism. Offenders are subject to random alcohol monitoring and drug testing, mandatory treatment, and are subject to curfews with or without electronic monitoring. *Clermont County Municipal Court is located at 4430 State Route 222 in Batavia.*

In 2005, the Ohio State University-Clermont County 4-H Youth Development Program actively engaged 876 young people; more than 600 of our 4-H youths participated in project judging, while 68 placed in the 2005 Ohio State Fair. The Horticulture Program produced a new gardening video entitled "Pathways to Successful Perennial Gardens." The Family Nutrition Program provided nutrition, food safety, and food budgeting education to nearly 1,900 food stamp participants and those who are eligible for food stamps. The Community Development Program produced a comprehensive community assessment report and helped secure a \$15,000 grant for the Batavia Main Street Program. *You can reach OSU Extension-Clermont County at 732-7070.*



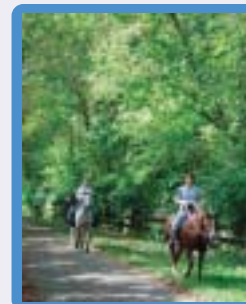
The Clermont County Jail served over 386,000 inmate meals in 2005, including 26,000 for the Juvenile Detention Center, at a cost of \$.95 each. The jail was once again recognized for being in 100 percent compliance with standards set forth by the Bureau of Adult Detention, as well as being in compliance with the standards of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. *The Clermont County Jail can be contacted at 732-7540.*

In 2005, the Clermont County Narcotics Unit conducted over 900 investigations, and arrested over 180 mid to upper level narcotics traffickers. Also in 2005, the unit removed and/or seized drugs with a street value of \$887,287; a total of 42 drug lab locations were targeted and 88 subjects arrested on methamphetamine related charges. *The Clermont Sheriff is A.J. "Tim" Rodenberg. Visit the Sheriff's Office Web site at www.ClermontSheriff.org, or call 732-7500.*



The Clermont County Public Library (CCPL) celebrated 50 years of service to the community in 2005. Library users visited the 10 branches of the CCPL system, 878,592 times. CCPL has 95,999 registered library users, who borrowed 1,824,167 items in 2005. The library's collection of materials, such as books, periodicals, compact discs and digital video discs now number 578,386. Average computer usage at the library stood at 800 sessions per day. All residents of Clermont County have access to a CCPL library branch within 10 minutes of their home. *Visit the CCPL Web site at www.Clermont.lib.oh.us.*

The Treatment Alternatives to Street Crime (TASC) program provided assessment and case management services to 547 court referred individuals for drug and alcohol problems in 2005. TASC's role in the diversion process contributed to the reduction of approximately 44,401 days of jail or prison time that would have been served by these clients, saving thousands of tax dollars for other critical county services. *TASC is available at 732-8070.*





The Clermont County Treasurer's Office continued its aggressive efforts focusing on the collection of taxes. In 2005, the office collected \$184.5 million dollars in real estate taxes, \$1.2 million in manufactured home taxes and \$17.6 million in personal property taxes. A total of 27 real estate tax foreclosures were filed in 2005 and the county's real estate delinquency rate is 1.1 percent. The Clermont Treasurer is J. Robert True. *For more information, contact the Treasurer's Office at 732-7254 or check the Web site at www.ClermontTreasurer.org.*

During 2005, the Clermont County Water and Sewer District financed over \$17.8 million in capital improvement projects. These projects ranged from new water mains, a new booster station, elevated water storage tanks, painting of existing tanks, new sewer mains, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, and a flow equalization facility. The Sewer District began construction of the Lower East Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant Process Procurement Project and the Hall Run Sanitary Flow Equalization Project.

The Sheriff's Office "Last Chance" initiative program was nominated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety to the Governor's Highway Safety Association for a national traffic safety award. The Clermont County Sheriff's Office was one of only five recipients within the United States selected to receive this prestigious award. Lt. Randy Harvey, who administers the program, accepted the award at the Governor's Highway Safety conference in Norfolk, Virginia, on behalf of the Sheriff's Office.



During 2005, Clermont County, through the Office of Environmental Quality, continued to increase locations for residential and commercial recycling drop-off boxes, creating more convenient recycling opportunities to stimulate participation. Recycling benefits citizens by reducing the amount of waste going to landfills, reuses natural resources, and saves money. As in previous years, the county teamed with various agencies and organizations for several neighborhood cleanups, the East Fork River Sweep, and the Ohio River Sweep. Litter was removed from over 800 miles of roads utilizing the Municipal Court alternative sentencing program. *For more information, visit www.OEQ.net or contact the Clermont County Office of Environmental Quality at 732-7894*

In 2005, the Storm Water Management Department initiated a pilot program to correct drainage problems in six residential areas. To help make this program permanent, Clermont County began exploring the possibility of creating a storm water utility; an advisory committee was created in April to assist with the effort. A utility would also allow the County to effectively manage the storm sewer system and to reduce pollutants from entering streams and rivers through storm water runoff. *For more information, contact the Storm Water Management Department at 732-7880 or visit their Web site at www.ClermontStorm.net.*



The Clermont Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB) initiated a crisis hotline (528-SAVE) in October 2003, to address concerns about suicide in our community and to provide a resource to local citizens coping with emotional problems. Each year since that time, the number of suicides has decreased, and the number of individuals asking for help has increased. *To learn more about the MHRB, visit their Web site www.CCMHRB.org or call 732-5400.*

The Clermont Public Defender's Office handled a total of 6,959 cases in 2005, including 1,369 in Common Pleas Court, 4,410 in Municipal Court, 174 in Domestic Relations Court, and 1,006 in Juvenile Court. *Contact the Clermont Public Defender's Office at 732-7223.*

The Department of Community Planning and Development moved to Permit Central in 2005, joining the Building Inspections Department and General Health District. The Building Inspections Department issued 5,019 permits during 2005, with a valuation of \$324,040,061. *Permit Central is located at 2275 Bauer Road in Batavia, and can be reached at 732-7213.*

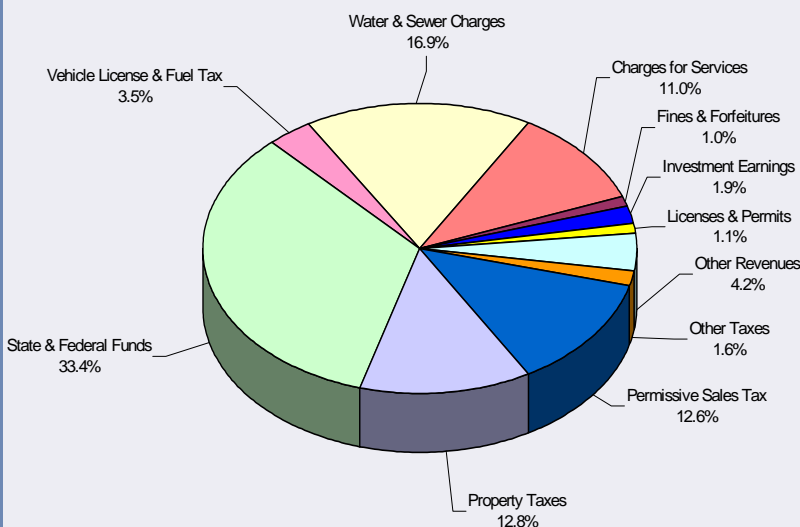


In 2005, the Board of Commissioners adopted the new *Clermont County Subdivision Regulations* and the *Subdivision Street Design and Construction Standards*. The Department of Community Planning and Development reviewed and the Planning Commission granted conditional approvals for numerous design plans, including the conditional approval of 2,418 lots. *To contact the Department of Community Planning and Development, call 732-7213.*

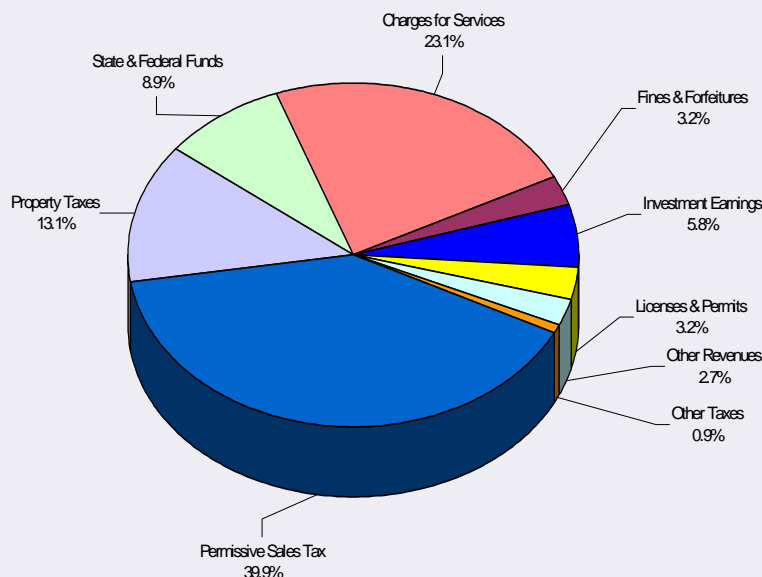
Watch your government in action on cable access television, available across Clermont County. *Call the Office of Public Information for details at 732-7597.*

Clermont County 2005 Financial Summary

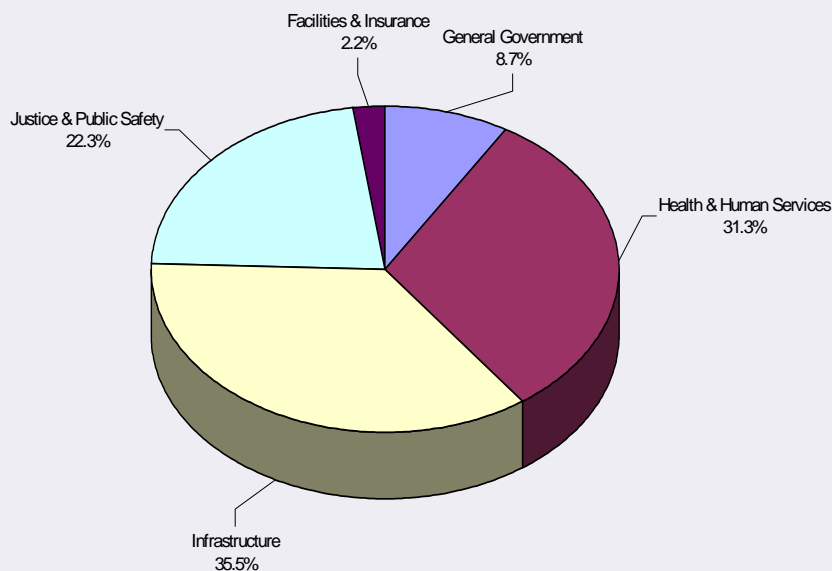
2005 Revenues - Board of County Commissioners Budgeted Funds
\$180,156,185



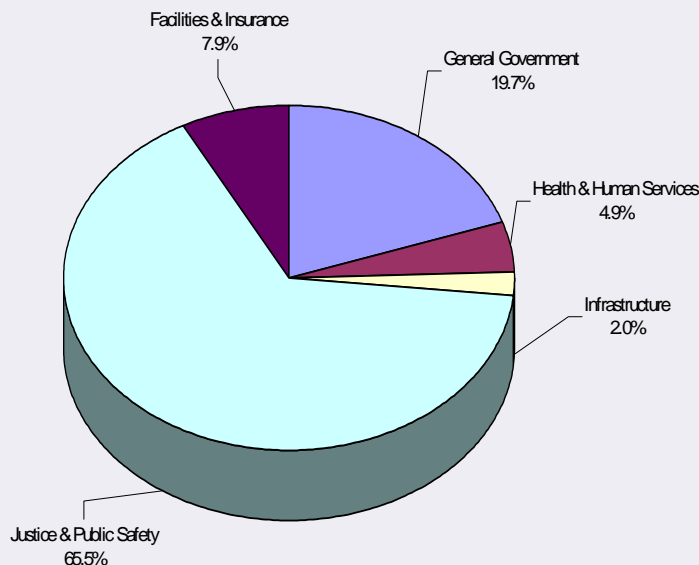
2005 Revenues - General Fund
\$51,777,186



2005 Expenses - Board of County Commissioners Budgeted Funds
\$182,121,467



2005 Expenses - General Fund
\$51,390,416



All charts exclude Internal Service Funds, Special Assessment Funds, and Interfund Transfers.

The numbers presented in this report represent actual Commissioners' budgeted funds and include allocation of certain costs to the major service groups and departments. As such, these numbers will differ from those presented in the Clermont County Audited Financial Statements, which may be viewed on the Web site at www.ClermontAuditor.org.

Bob Proud, Mary C. Walker, R. Scott Croswell III
Board of Clermont County Commissioners
101 E. Main Street
Batavia, Ohio 45103
www.ClermontCountyOhio.gov



Clermont County Telephone Numbers: *for Emergency Assistance Dial 9-1-1*

Animal Shelter	732-8854	MRDD	732-7000
Auditor's Office	732-7150	Office of Environmental Quality	732-7894
Batavia Highway Patrol	732-1510	Ohio Dept. of Transportation	797-6008
Board of Commissioners	732-7300	OSU Clermont Extension Service	732-7070
Board of Elections	732-7275	Park District	732-2977
Business Workforce Resource Center	943-3000	Permit Central	732-7213
Children's Protective Services	732-7173	Recorder's Office	732-7236
Child Support Enforcement	732-7248	Senior Services	724-1255
Clermont Transportation Connection	732-7433	Sewer Department	732-7040
DJFS Employment Services	732-7111	Sheriff's Office	732-7500
Economic Development Office	732-7915	Soil and Water Conservation District	732-7075
Educational Service Center	735-8300	Stormwater	732-7880
Engineer	732-8857	Treasurer's Office	732-7254
General Health District	732-7499	Veterans' Services	732-7363
Mental Health and Recovery Board	732-5400	Water Department	732-7970

